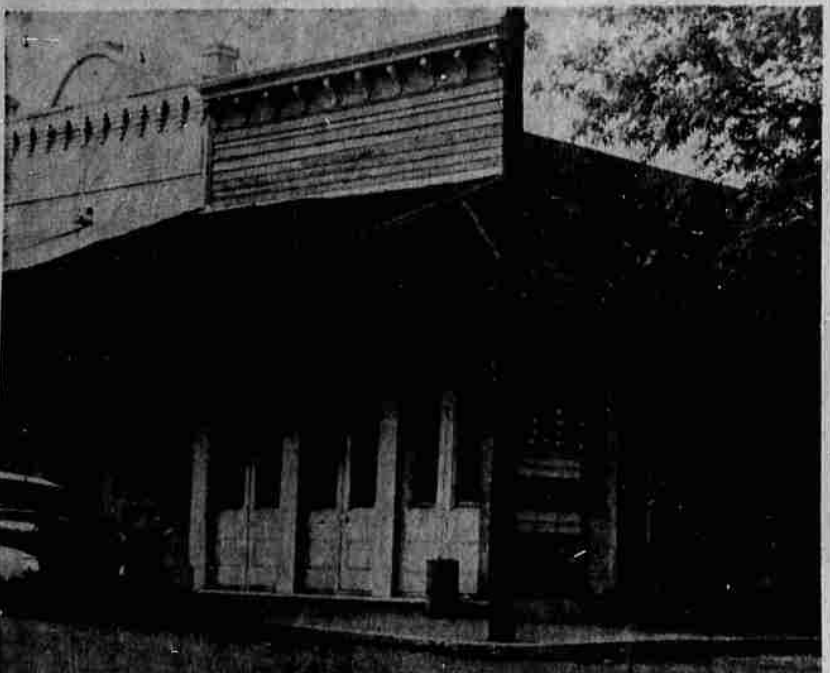


Jacksonville: History With Modern Ideas



IOOF BUILDING—Located on the corner of Main and Oregon sts. in Jacksonville is the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building constructed in 1880. Heavy iron doors over



BEEKMAN BANK—The old Beekman bank on Jacksonville's Main st. is being restored through efforts of the Southern Oregon Historical society. When completed, the



CITY HALL—The Jacksonville City council meets in the old city hall, first used as a general store in 1856. The council considers modern day problems in old style surroundings. The building is in need of repair today, and the city plans on soliciting bids for needed improvements.



HISTORIC CEMETERY—Many men, women and children who helped shape the history of southern Oregon are buried in the Jacksonville cemetery. These pioneers lie in plots beneath the shade of madrone, pine and oak trees.

The cemetery is maintained jointly by the city and various religious organizations. Among most impressive plots is the Ish plot with nine tall tombstones.

Officials Face Problems of Past, Modern Ideas

By JOHN STAFFORD
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and
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Jacksonville—The boom of the 1850s is over in this historic southern Oregon community, but plenty of physical remnants of a town created by a gold rush remain.

Old buildings, which would probably be torn down in many areas, line Main st. and serve as a reminder of the "good old days" when raw gold was a common sight.

The history of Jacksonville starts with discovery of gold in Jackson creek and progresses through the boom created by wild eyed prospectors bent on making a fortune. The city was the wealthiest and largest community in Oregon when the territory received statehood in 1859.

Eventually, opportunities to make quicker fortunes sprang up in other areas and much of the population moved on. Chances Rise Again

Chances for high prosperity rose again in the late 1800s when a railroad indicated a desire to run a main line through Jacksonville. History reveals that difference of opinion between local citizens in settling on a railroad right of way caused the company to put its track five miles away through a settlement known as Medford.

One historian said "Jacksonville soon withered as far as commerce and population were concerned."

Few Jacksonville citizens today are unhappy about what was considered an unfortunate event years ago.

However, city officials are facing problems encountered in few other U.S. cities.

Early History Recorded

Much of the early history of Oregon has been recorded in Jacksonville and there is much to be said for preserving this history. However, there also is much to be said for moving the city ahead along modern lines. Chances are good that both viewpoints will be represented in future major development, if and when it comes.

City Councilman Don Wendt says he favors preserving the historical elements in the community, but adds that the people want the city to be as modern and up to date as any other community.

Is it possible to initiate modern improvements and at the same time retain an historical atmosphere? Wendt thinks it is, and so does Mayor E. O. Graham.

Both men have visions of restoring buildings in the main section of town to their original condition, while at the same time, developing other areas of town into first class residential districts.

They point out that homesites in and around Jacksonville are ideal. And they are quick to mention that 17 new homes have been constructed in the city in the last two years.

Two Subdivisions
Two subdivisions have been initiated. The Reinking subdivision is located in the southeast section of town. Seven new homes are included there. The Ford-Patterson subdivision is in the northeast sector.

Wendt says the city council favors giving the city an historical flavor and atmosphere while, at the same time, providing a "wonderful residential area away from city type



OLD AND NEW—The main street of Jacksonville represents more than 100 years of Oregon history. Buildings haven't changed much in the last 50 years but no one is complaining. Many people hope to see the street restored

living."

Steps have been taken toward restoration of historical buildings. The Southern Oregon Historical society is restoring the old Beekman bank located on Main st. And the Lions club and Siskiyou Pioneer Sites Foundation are engaged in restoring the U. S. hotel, also on Main st.

To insure retaining the historical atmosphere, in 1959 the city council incorporated a provision in the city zoning ordinance which makes it illegal to change the front of a building in the historical zone. Another ordinance requires all signs in the zone to be of old fashioned design.

Graham says he hopes all buildings along Main st. will be restored in the near future. The building exteriors would have to be historical, but the interiors could be modern, according to Graham.

Attracting Tourists

Attracting tourists to the city is a prime factor in future plans. Currently, the major attraction is the Jacksonville museum, founded in 1950. A total of 416,191 visitors have toured the museum since it opened. Attendance is increasing at a rapid rate. Since January of this year 10,102 visitors have registered, an increase of 880 over a year ago.

A few of these visitors visit the main business district. Wendt and Graham want more, and to do this, they say the street needs to be restored. Curio and gift shops on a limited scale, antique shops and more restaurants are needed, they point out.

Population of Jacksonville is 1,171. Assessed valuation of property totals \$631,799.71. The 1960 city budget was \$31,904.36. The annual tax levy has increased from \$9,931 in 1956 to \$12,888 in 1960, and Jean Hewlett, city recorder, says that much of the increase has been caused by a general increase in prices.

In the 1930s the city spent between \$500 and \$1,000 a month. Today the city spends about \$4,000 a month.

Improving Facilities

Improvement of city facilities has been progressing on schedule in recent years. A long range street paving program has paid off to the extent that only one street in town remains unpaved. More than three miles of hard surface streets are in the city. In addition, a cover for the city water reservoir was installed late last year at a cost in excess of \$5,000.

Five employees are on the city payroll. They include a police chief, city recorder, water superintendent, attorney and judge. The fire chief of the 18-member volunteer fire department also receives a small salary.

The city helps maintain the Jacksonville cemetery, an historical attraction. Representatives from the city, Odd Fellows, Catholic church, Masons and Redmen serve as a governing cemetery committee. Common marking on tombstones is the phrase "killed by the Indians." One of the earliest birthdates is 1790.

Work in Other Places
A large number of city residents work in surrounding communities. Local merchants are the only businesses in Jacksonville.

Graham says the city isn't attempting to attract large industrial developments.

As in other small cities, local organizations play an important part in community affairs. The Jacksonville Lions club has 21 members and is currently helping to restore the U.S. hotel. The Lions also built the Jacksonville Community hall 12 years ago. Other projects include aiding the blind and supplying glasses to needy children in the area.

The Lions auxiliary also is active in aiding the blind. The auxiliary sends blind children and their parents to a state institute for the blind meeting twice a year.

Maintains Park

The Jacksonville Garden club helps maintain the city memorial park and encourages planting of flowers in all areas of the city. In addition, the club helps maintain an old rose garden, started by the Medford Rose society. The garden contains over 80 roses of 17 varieties. It is located near the Methodist church on the corner of Fifth and D sts.

The Odd Fellows were organized in 1880. The IOOF sponsors an historical trek with lodge visitors from all parts of Oregon, and a United Nations pilgrimage, sponsored jointly by the IOOF and Rebekah lodge. A Boy Scout troop is also sponsored by the IOOF.

The Elementary PTA has 102 members and recently started sponsoring a summer recreation program.

Other active organizations include the Royal Neighbors of America, Masons, Eastern Star, American Legion and Legion auxiliary.

First County Branch

The Jacksonville library, opened in 1923, was the first county branch library. It was started with 290 books. Today this number has swelled to 6,384.

According to Graham and Wendt, a key to future developments is installation of a sewage disposal system, an issue defeated in a 1957 election. Establishment of large residential developments may hinge on whether or not the sewage disposal plant is installed. Septic tanks are used by residents presently.

Cost of the proposed system was \$120,600.

Since the 1957 election, Graham says the city tax valuation has increased and the tax rate has been lowered. The bonding capacity of the city has been increased. Current bonded indebtedness is less than \$75,000. Graham said that the indebtedness decreased as a result of annexation of the high school district into the Medford school district.

To Come Up Again

The sewage disposal issue is scheduled to come up again. Graham says he hopes an election will be held in the near future. Wendt feels that "Jacksonville needs a sewage system. We want to make the proposal as favorable as possible explaining why it is necessary and how it will be beneficial." He points out that the proposed system would raise property values.

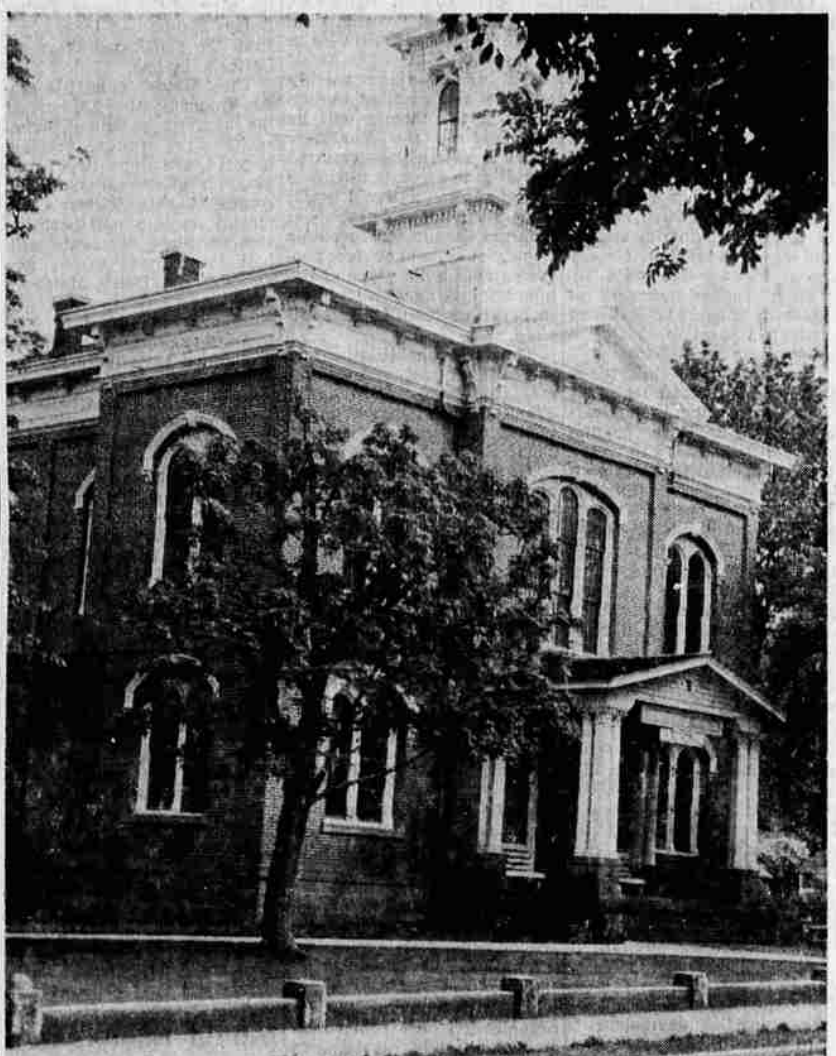
Progress is being made in Jacksonville and possibilities for the future are unlimited. The town may be old, but the people are enthusiastic and excited about prospects for the future. Mayor Graham thinks the time for large scale progress is drawing near. Whether his hopes materialize remain to be seen.

Bowmer, Taylor Elected To Group

Ashland—Southern Oregon college professors, Angus L. Bowmer, founder-producer of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, and Dr. Arthur S. Taylor, chairman of the social science division, have been elected to a membership in the prestigious International Institute of Arts and Letters, Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, SOC president, has announced.

Founded in 1907 as a body corporate under the laws of Switzerland, the continuing purpose of the Institute has been the achievement of world-wide cooperation in the cultivation and promotion of arts, letters and sciences, with the object of increasing knowledge and of contributing in other ways to human progress.

Among its published list of members are such internationally distinguished persons as Marc Chagall, French writer-philosopher; Jean Cocteau, member of the French academy; Alan S. Paton, writer, Union of South Africa; Eero Saarinen, American architect; William Saroyan, American writer; Thornton Wilder, American writer; King W. Vidor, American motion picture director; and professor Dozent Heinz Hajek-Halke, Academy of Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany.



TOURIST ATTRACTION — The Jacksonville museum, founded in 1950, is the main tourist attraction in the city. Guest books indicate people from all parts of the world come to view museum exhibits. The Southern Historical society maintains the museum. The building was formerly the Jackson county courthouse.

Service Unlimited Has New Owner

Mrs. Betty Fichtner has purchased the business of Service Unlimited and All Service Temporary Employment from Miss Dana L. Platz, owner of the business for the past several years.

Mrs. Fichtner said the business will continue to deal with the employment of professional, clerical and skilled laborers. Two full time secretaries are employed in the office, she said. They are Mrs. Josephine Williams and Mrs. Laverne James.

The business is located at 1005 East Main st.

MAPLE HARVEST

Albany — Upper New York and Vermont farm families tap about six million maple trees for the annual sap harvest.

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